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SUBJECT: CAIRO MEDIA REACTION: THE ATTACK IN AMERICA -
SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

1. SUMMARY:

THE LEAD STORY IN ALL PRO-GOVERNMENT MEDIA WAS
PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S INTERVIEWS WITH CNN'S LARRY KING
AND THE BBC. ALL PRO-GOVERNMENT HEADLINES EMPHASIZED
MUBARAK'S RENEWAL OF THE CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON FIGHTING TERRORISM; HIS URGING THAT AN
AMERICAN ATTACK ON ANY COUNTRY BECAUSE OF A SINGLE
PERSON MEANS THE KILLING OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS; AND HIS
STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT BUSH PROMISED FURTHER EFFORTS
TO SETTLE THE MIDDLE EAST ISSUE; THAT THE EGYPTIAN
ISLAMIC JIHAD ORGANIZATION IS CERTAINLY AFFILIATED WITH
BIN LADEN.

HOWEVER, THE BANNER IN OPPOSITION AL AHRAR READ, "WE
WILL NOT FIGHT WITH AMERICA," IN REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT
MUBARAK'S STATEMENT THAT EGYPTIAN TROOPS WILL NOT
PARTICIPATE IN AN AMERICAN ATTACK IN AFGHANISTAN. AL
AHRAR'S FRONT PAGE FURTHER PUBLISHED A STORY THAT
PRESIDENT BUSH "IS TRYING TO SAVE HIS FRAGILE ALLIANCE"
BY MEETING WITH WORLD LEADERS ON THE PLANS TO RESPOND
TO THE ATTACKS IN THE U.S.

PROMINENT REPORTS ON PRESIDENT BUSH'S VISIT TO THE
ISLAMIC CENTER IN WASHINGTON APPEARED IN LEADING PRO-
GOVERNMENT AL AHRAH AND AGGRESSIVE PRO-GOVERNMENT AL
AKHBAR.

-- ON ALL FRONT PAGES, PRESIDENT MUBARAK DISCUSSED THE
AMERICAN SITUATION WITH JORDAN'S KING ABDULLAH, SYRIAN
PRESIDENT ASSAD AND OMAN SULTAN QABOOS.

-- LEADING PRO-GOVERNMENT AL AHRAH'S FRONT PAGE
PROMINENTLY REPORTED THAT THE UNSC DEMANDED THE TALIBAN
SURRENDER BIN LADEN, WHILE THE U.S. FORMED "A WAR
GOVERNMENT" WHERE PRESIDENT BUSH AND SECRETARY POWELL
ARE CONDUCTING A DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN TO FORM AN
INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE AGAINST TERRORISM.

-- LEADING PRO-GOVERNMENT AL AHAM QUOTED SECRETARY POWELL'S PRESS CONFERENCE SAYING THAT THE U.S. DOES NOT INTEND HARM TO THE AFGHANI PEOPLE, AND BIN LADEN HAS CELLS IN DOZENS OF COUNTRIES. ALL PAPERS COVERED HIS STATEMENT TO AL JAZIRA TELEVISION RULING OUT ISRAEL'S PARTICIPATION IN THE AMERICAN MILITARY RESPONSE AND THAT THE ARAB WORLD IS NOT A TARGET OF AMERICAN ACTION TO FIGHT TERRORISM.

-- ALL FRONT PAGES REPORTED ON THE KILLING OF AN EGYPTIAN COPT IN LOS ANGELES AS A REACTION TO THE ATTACKS IN THE U.S. COLUMNISTS CONTINUED TO CRITICIZE THE "HATE CAMPAIGN" AGAINST ARABS AND MOSLEMS WORLDWIDE.

-- AN EDITORIALIST TACKLED THE ISSUE OF FREEDOM VERSUS SECURITY AFTER THE ATTACKS. ANOTHER QUESTIONED WESTERN STANDARDS AND LIKENED THE U.S. CURRENT SITUATION TO HITLER'S GERMANY AND STALIN'S RUSSIA. WHILE THE GENERAL EDITORIAL TREND IS TO CALL FOR THE EXERCISE OF WISDOM AND NOT TO FOLLOW THE PREJUDGMENT AGAINST BIN LADEN, ONE COLUMNIST ATTACKED THE TALIBAN FOR PROTECTING BIN LADEN.

-- THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, WHILE STILL ON ALL FRONT PAGES, WAS EMPHASIZED IN PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S INTERVIEWS WITH CNN AND BBC. END SUMMARY.

12. QUOTE OF THE DAY

"THESE HAPHAZARD ACCUSATIONS THAT LACK FIRM EVIDENCE MAKE THE TRAGEDY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- WITH WHOM EVERYONE SYMPATHIZED -- A FARCE WITH WHICH NO ONE SYMPATHIZES. IS THIS WESTERN DEMOCRACY?.. I REGRET WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AMERICA." LEADING PRO-GOVERNMENT AHAM'S REGULAR COLUMNIST HAZEM ABDEL RAHMAN

13. BLOCK QUOTES

-- "FREEDOM AND SECURITY" LEADING PRO-GOVERNMENT AL AHAM'S SENIOR MODERATE COLUMNIST AHMED BAHGAT (9/19):
DICTATORSHIPS DEEPLY DIFFER FROM DEMOCRACIES. UNLIKE THE CITIZEN IN THE TOTALITARIAN REGIMES, THE CITIZENS IN DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES ENJOY FREEDOM OF SPEECH, MOVEMENT AND ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE. THE PERPETRATORS OF THE ATTACKS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK EXPLOITED THESE PRIVILEGES.. [HOWEVER,] AMERICANS ARE FEELING THAT THEIR FREEDOM IS THREATENED BY FIRM SECURITY MEASURES.. AMERICAN ANALYSTS BECAME AWARE OF THIS CRISIS AND STRESSED THAT THEY SHOULD NOT LOSE THEIR FREEDOM FOR SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.. WILL AMERICA SUCCEED IN SOLVING THE EQUATION OF BALANCING FREEDOM WITH SECURITY?.. THE ADVANTAGE OF DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES IS THAT EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL WITHOUT FEELING SECURITY. WILL THIS IMAGE CHANGE?"

-- "READY MADE ACCUSATION" LEADING PRO-GOVERNMENT AHAM'S REGULAR COLUMNIST HAZEM ABDEL RAHMAN (9/19):
"THE U.S. WILL NOT LOSE ANYTHING BY HITTING BIN LADEN'S BASES IN AFGHANISTAN. IT DID IT IN 1998 AFTER THE EMBASSY BOMBINGS IN NAIROBI AND DAR ESSALAM. THE PROBLEM IS THAT IT MAY FAIL AGAIN IN CAPTURING HIM.. ON THE OTHER HAND, WHO SAID THAT HE IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBLE PARTY IN THE NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON ATTACKS? HOW CAN THE CIA AND FBI BE TRUSTED SO RAPIDLY AFTER PROVING THEIR UTTER FAILURE IN DETECTING THE ATTACK AND REVEALING THE PERPETRATORS?.. AMAZINGLY, THE U.S., A SOCIETY OF POLITICAL PLURALISM, HAS SUDDENLY BECOME SIMILAR TO A NAZI SOCIETY IN HITLER'S TIME, OR A SOVIET SOCIETY IN STALIN'S RULE: EVERYONE IS MOBILIZED BEHIND THE ONE TREND AND ONE OPINION TO RETALIATE AGAINST A SPECIFIC PERSON BEFORE THE INVESTIGATIONS EVEN START. CERTAIN PEOPLE ARE NOW

ACCUSED OF BEING TERRORISTS FOR THE MERE FACT THAT THEIR NAMES WERE ON THE TRAVEL LISTS BECAUSE THEY ARE ARABS OR MOSLEMS, OR POSSESSED BOOKS ON HOW TO FLY A PLANE OR HOW TO BE A MOSLEM. WHERE IS THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE INVESTIGATIONS? THESE HAPHAZARD ACCUSATIONS THAT LACK FIRM EVIDENCE MAKE THE TRAGEDY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- WITH WHOM EVERYONE SYMPATHIZED -- A FARCE WITH WHICH NO ONE SYMPATHIZES. IS THIS WESTERN DEMOCRACY? DOES IT CHANGE, AT THE TIME OF DANGER, TO A BRAINWASH OPERATION AND AN OPEN FALSIFICATION OF THE PEOPLE'S CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE MOST MODERN NATION? WHO SAYS THAT ONLY ARAB MOSLEMS COMMIT SUICIDE? WHERE ARE THE KAMIKAZE PILOTS OR THE BUDDHISTS MONKS?... I REGRET WHAT IS HAPPENING IN AMERICA."

-- "HATE CAMPAIGNS" LEADING PRO-GOVERNMENT AL AHRAH'S SENIOR INFLUENTIAL COLUMNIST SALAMA AHMED SALAMA (9/19): "THE HATE CAMPAIGNS AND HARASSMENT OF ARABS AND MOSLEMS IN AMERICA AND ALL THE WESTERN COUNTRIES IS RISING DAY AFTER ANOTHER.. THAT IS WHY PRESIDENT BUSH VISITED THE ISLAMIC CENTER IN WASHINGTON.. OUR FEAR IS THAT THE STATEMENTS OF OFFICIALS IN AMERICA AND EUROPE BECOME USELESS WITH THE WESTERN MEDIA CONTINUAL MOBILIZATION OF FEELINGS AGAINST THE SO-CALLED ISLAMIC TERRORISM AND THOSE SAVAGE ARABS WHO WANT TO CRUSH WESTERN CIVILIZATION.. THE QUESTION IS, WHAT IS THE USE OF ARAB DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS WORLDWIDE? WHY DO THEY NOT ADOPT A COLLECTIVE PROTEST POSITION AGAINST THESE ATTACKS? SILENCE WILL ONLY ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO CONTINUE THE MISTREATMENT."

-- "THE ISLAMOPHOBIA AND AMERICAN REVENGE" LEADING PRO-GOVERNMENT AL AHRAH'S COLUMNIST SALAH EDDIN HAFEZ (9/19): "WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A TARGET OF ACCUSATIONS ACCORDING TO THE TRADITIONS OF SUPERPOWER. IT FIRST AVENGES ITS INJURED PRIDE, AND THEN THINKS ABOUT INVESTIGATING THE ATTACKS.. THE RAPID EFFORT TO FORM AN INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OR CONFERENCE LED BY THE U.S. TO FIGHT TERRORISM IS THANKFUL.. HOWEVER, WHERE WERE THESE EFFORTS WHEN TERRORIST GROUPS KILLED AND BURNED LAND IN [EGYPT AND ARAB COUNTRIES]? WHERE WERE THESE FEVERISH EFFORTS WHEN ISRAEL KILLS, BURNS AND DESTROYS DAILY?... IT IS GOOD TO SPEAK WITH AMERICA AND EUROPE ABOUT PEACE, STABILITY, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FIGHTING TERRORISM. HOWEVER, THIS MUST BE BASED ON UNIFIED STANDARDS AND BALANCED GUIDELINES. WE SHOULD REMEMBER WHEN THE U.S. RUSHED AND PRESSURED EVERYONE TO HOLD AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FIGHTING TERRORISM IN SHARM EL SHEIKH, EGYPT, IN 1996, WHEN IT TURNED OUT TO BE AN AMERICAN ATTEMPT ONLY TO HELP ISRAEL'S PERES WIN THE ELECTIONS."

-- "IF I WERE IN TALIBAN'S SHOES" LEADING PRO-GOVERNMENT AHRAH'S COLUMNIST SALAH MONTASSER (9/19): "WHEN BIN LADEN WENT TO AFGHANISTAN, HE RAISED THE BANNER OF 'STRUGGLING AGAINST THE INFIDELS;' A CALL THAT THE U.S. NOURISHED SO THAT IT WOULD BE USED AGAINST THE SOVIETS INSTEAD OF DIRECT AMERICAN INTERVENTION.. BIN LADEN WAS TEMPTED BY THE WEALTH HE INHERITED, THE STRENGTH THAT EMERGED IN TRAINING CAMPS AND INFLOW OF WEAPONS TO SERVE HIS OWN PURPOSE OF FORMING THE LARGEST TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.FROM WHICH EGYPT SUFFERED.. IN SUMMARY, BIN LADEN IS NOT THE INNOCENT NATIONALIST WHO DESERVES THE PROTECTION OF ANY COUNTRY. IF I WERE IN TALIBAN'S SHOES I WOULD QUESTION FIRST BIN LADEN'S SELFISHNESS AND ASK HIM WHETHER HE ACCEPTS TO SURRENDER HIMSELF TO PROTECT AFGHANISTAN FROM THE IMPENDING DESTRUCTION OR NOT."

WELCH